

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending. By the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-5, 7-18, 30 and 31 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 32-53 are added. Support for the added claims can be found at page 3, lines 18-19 (claims 32-33); page 3, line 26 (34); page 5, lines 16-19 (35-36); page 6, line 32 – page 7, line 2 (37); page 7, lines 26-27 (38); page 8, lines 1-4 (39, 40); page 8, lines 15-24 (41-44); page 10, lines 5-6 (45); page 6, line 19 (46-47); page 11, lines 1-3 (48, 49); page 11, lines 17-18 (50); page 12, lines 18-20 (52); and page 13, lines 13-14 (53); and elsewhere in the specification. These amendments do not present new matter and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Rejection over Chen et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,495,258

Claim 6 has been rejected over Chen et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,495,258 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Chen patent was filed on Sep 20, 2000. Attached to this Amendment is a 131 Declaration signed by the inventors showing that the invention of claim 6, namely a porous carbon nanotube structure including a large pore support having through porosity and carbon nanotubes disposed over the large pore support, was conceived and reduced to practice prior to Sep 20, 2000. In the structure that was reduced to practice, the large pore support was a stainless steel foam. Therefore, the Chen patent is not effective prior art, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

If the Examiner has any questions or would like to speak to Applicants' representative, the Examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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